

**White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation**

Topic: Reaching Across Boundaries to Promote Shared Governance

Session number: 42

Morning (0954)

Facilitator: Lucy Moore

Location: 221

A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion. *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

- Tension between national level policies and local interests...need to preserve federal responsibilities and regulations v need to include and empower local interests...expand opportunity for local input but not give away federal responsibility for federal laws
- Need for governing body to keep legal authority for decision making
- Need for leadership skills/training for shared governance process
- Need predictability and reliability of process...participants need to understand expectations and commitment.
- Need to preserve/ensure access and transparency of process
- Need for Programmatic Integration at federal level to include policy, procedures, authority...particularly OMB
- Provide realistic expectations
- Improve private landowner access to information through technology
- Streamline federal procedures

B. National-level Practical Actions *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Interstate compacts to facilitate cross-border environment collaborative spending
- Provide quality facilitation
- CEQ act as a repository...create "one stop shop"— website with guidance, facilitators, case studies
- Dovetail and cooperate with local communities (policy, regulations, procedures)
- Coordination within the federal family...consistent policies, regulations, procedures and funding
- Try to limit federal/state duplication and inconsistency
- Design regulations that focus on outcomes
- OMB needs to evaluate their rules to optimize cross-agency collaboration and consistency
- Increased allocation for state wildlife grants. Provide a roadmap for conservation of species at the state level.

C. Local-level Practical Actions *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Need for leadership skills/training for shared governance process.
- Better planning at a local and regional level...need to cover natural systems

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- Incentivize local participation in something other than dollars.
 - State and Local equivalent of the Economy Act
 - Facilitate exemption from certain local regulations
 - Gift acceptance authority – make it easier for the local government to accept volunteer work and gifts
 - Recognition including market incentives, awards and endorsements
 - Need for education and to promote success stories
- D. **Particularly insightful quotes from participants** that capture the essence of key points made during the group’s discussion.
- There are diminishing returns on taking regulatory approaches. Taking a shared government approach is a necessity if we are to meet our environmental goals.
 - Benefit of shared governance is helping stakeholders/ALL “overcome me and move toward we” and understand it HAS to be shared.
 - private landholders “match puzzle pieces” to take care of something as a group they couldn’t do individually.
 - “Motivation is not all that relevant as long as the objectives can come together.”
 - Shared governance creates a “practice field for true participative democracy”
 - Virtual conservationists connected by the internet.

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Topic: Reaching Across Boundaries to Promote Shared Governance

Session number: 42

Morning

Facilitator: Pat Tallarico

Location: 222

A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion. *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

- Get group dynamics right. Be sure the right people are at the table and expose hidden agendas.
- Working nationally and locally but often missing the regional piece.
- Inviting stakeholders and giving them a voice is key to reaching consensus and getting to action. Validate and value stakeholders. Stakeholders can feel that meetings and hearings, etc. are often perfunctory.
- Agreement and consensus often clouded by politically charged environments.
- Conflicts and/or crisis often driving shared governance or collaborations. How can we get to collaborations ahead of conflicts or major problems?
- Working at grassroots level to understand issues and create solutions before issues become crisis.
- Often organizations with seemingly disparate missions can find that they have a common interest.
- Local communities often don't understand environmental issues so it can be difficult to coalesce people around a problem or challenge.

B. National-level Practical Actions *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Promote public/private partnerships and make the need for this type of collaboration known and understood at the highest levels.
- Understand current incentives and integrate new incentives to promote shared governance.
- Agencies should make better use of local information to influence decision making (joint fact finding).
- Agencies promote capacity building both internally as well as local level.
- Agencies align policy tools to enhance collaboration. (eg. training on consensus management).

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- Agencies need to be able to articulate clear purpose and role before coming to the table and better understand their common mission, activities and goals.
- Have more opportunities to delegate authority to the local level.
- Training to help agencies better understand local or target audiences which in turn help agency staff develop and deepen better relationships and community-based level.
- Promote innovation and provide incentives for flexibility with an understanding that one solution doesn't fit all.
- Agencies establish broad umbrella programs so that decisions are made in a broader context based on national priorities.
- Ensure that funds are being allocated properly and used effectively.

C. Local-level Practical Actions *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Local community groups and organizations should communicate to national counterparts and local organizations their goals and needs.
- Define a tangible goal(s) for the agency to help resolve as opposed to presenting a large problem to tackle.
- Increase effort to communicate to the public for informational purposes as opposed to decision making purposes.
- NGOs should play more prominent role in sustaining long term efforts.
- Community-based organizations should develop a diversified funding base which includes private sector and foundation funding.

D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants *that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.*

- Nature itself knows no boundaries.
- Listen to what people mean as opposed to what they say.
- One solution does not fix all problems.

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Session number: 42

Morning

Facilitator: Marlon Sherman

Location: 223

A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion. *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

- Citizen/Convening groups are essential to the conservation process – these participants face unique challenges relating to lack of funding that limits full engagements.
 - i. Funding for projects v. funding for convening others and travel
 - ii. Always realize that there are folks attending meetings that are “on the job” versus others who are away from their job.
- Shared Governance – issue of upper case versus lower case “g”.
 - How do they interact?
 - What is the voice of little “g”?
 - The little “g”, with a sense of place, must interact with decision makers/elected officials so as to create political will.
 - There are different ways for the two to interact. For example, the small “g” may bring specific ways to improve services from agencies.
- Implementation of on-the-ground actions accompanies the policy realm, Shared governance here also involves the small “g”
- Sound Science, including/balanced with individual ways of knowing, provides the foundation for cooperative conservation and shared trust.
- “Ethic” issues often present a barrier to full involvement of potential fed/state/expert involvement with collaborative venues.
- Boundaries are horizontal and vertical in nature. Federal, State, local interactions often work, but boundaries between federal agencies and between individual agency programs can cause problems.
- We should also recognize the many conflicts that prevent cross boundary work, including legal impediments, social issues, inconsistent regulations, etc.
- Although boundaries vary location to location, collaboration allows us to overcome barriers.
- “Trust lines” can take longer than “Time lines”, but the former clearly more important and valued.

B. National-level Practical Actions *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO’s, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

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- Create mechanism to provide greater funding support to citizen groups and convening entities for fuller participation of these conservation partners.
- Secure improved, functional connectivity between decision makers (capital G) and citizen groups (lower case g). Encourage big “G” to make decisions with the lower case “g” at the table.
- As a statutory issue, seek federal/state/local consistencies
- Seek consistency of federal message for public involvement/engagement at the national level. This venue serves as an example.
- Identify principles/standards that lead to successful collaborative conservation (i.e. the Enlibra Principles)
- Identify common language, measures of success, and standards of accountability relating to natural resource and environmental issues.
- Seek ways to reward people who collaborate and bring creativity to issues. Incorporate these characteristics into personnel actions.
- Engage U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, the Policy Consensus Initiative, and others to develop practices, standards, case studies, and sunset guidance to assist others with new and ongoing cooperative efforts. Also look to Section 101 of NEPA to provide guidance for this action.
- Ensure that DOT, DOE, and Homeland Security are invited to the table and any next conference.

C. Local-level Practical Actions *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Increase environmental literacy at the local level and foster “environmental citizenship”.
- Encourage university/extension role with environmental education.
- Look for opportunities for shared positions between governments.

D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants that capture the essence of key points made during the group’s discussion.

- If we’ve learned anything, conservation succeeds when we have place based coalitions that bring people together to overcome limitations of national policies and laws.

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Topic: Reaching Across Boundaries to Promote Shared Governance

Session number: 42

Facilitator: James Moye

Morning

Location: 224

A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion. *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

- “Facilitate cooperative communication to achieve cooperative conservation.”
- Capacity enhancement.
- Big picture thinking; “Don’t limit success by limiting vision.” Don’t try to solve a single problem. Understand concept under which a problem exists.
- Framework and guidelines are necessary. Templates protocols in government.
- Technical assistance is more valuable than money.
- Better implementation of laws and programs, not MORE laws.
- Documenting the standards of practice that are emerging. Getting them together and documenting the best in class and using this as a benchmark to keep the progress moving. But using that to launch the next round of efforts.
- Invest resources (public and private) in capacity building.
- Do a better job of identifying the goal before you talk about tools needed.
- Better land use planning.

B. National-level Practical Actions *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO’s, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Get incentives for collaboration such as access to federal resources, money for planning/ needs assessment.
- Consolidation...not necessarily of agencies, but priorities and issues within agencies. We hear arguments all the time, but you have look at how it benefits all of the others. We need to have everyone focused.
- Intelligence oversight process to work better.. If you could engage in a solution for a problem with multi-task agency force...then you could get a solution or at least a different way of going about things as well as a better sense of confidence to work across the agency system.
- There is competition between efforts... Leaving that for politics to decide will not help the situation.
- We need a national conservation icon. Smoky bear ex. That’s an icon that the general public understands that raises their awareness. We need that. We all have our own individual missions, but we need something constant that the American ppl can see and identify.

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C. Local-level Practical Actions *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

- Inventory analysis of authorities and responsibilities, identification of/or core gaps...expenditures, similarities, conflicts.
- Rural communities need an economic disincentive for them to take time away from work to participate even when they really need it.
- Presenting economic options and what comes with these choices...for landowners with the land use planning.

D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants *that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.*

- Don't limit success by limiting your vision.
- "Facilitate cooperative communication to achieve cooperative conservation."
- The outcome will be more true to the culture of the place than if the decision comes out a single entity. The broader you make this, then the better chance that your outcome will have more a truth based.

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